

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAPP-POTTER ADMINISTRATION ADVANCES TRAINING AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

(July 23, 2015, St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands) The Office of the Governor Americans with Disabilities Act is pleased and honored to celebrate 25 years of the signing of the American with Disabilities Act. On July 25, 1990, the United States of America gained a pivotal piece of civil rights legislation aimed at eliminating discrimination against people with disabilities. The doors to equality, independence, integration and self-sufficiency was keyed and opened on that day. In the Virgin Islands, the door was opened slightly and there remains lots of work to be done so that the door can be opened completely and seamlessly.

The Mapp/Potter Administration is dedicated to the full implementation of the ADA. Over the last several weeks, the Territorial ADA Coordinator, Jamila Russell, held town hall meetings on all three islands so that individuals with disabilities would have the opportunity to meet and discuss their issues with members of the executive branch. Members of the ADA community learned of the Mapp/Potter Administration's work on recruiting and hiring workers with disabilities. Through grant monies from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the Departments of Education, Human Services and Labor and the ADA Coordinator will be working collaboratively to provide training and job opportunities to individuals with disabilities.

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the ADA, we recognize that barriers still exists and too many individuals with disabilities are denied the American opportunity of fully participating in our community and in our workforce. The Mapp/Potter Administration commits to educating all on the mandates of the ADA, as well as implementing and enforcing the mandates of the ADA in the territory. The doorway to full participation, opportunity and independence for people with disabilities has been opened and the Mapp/Potter Administration is committed to keep that door open and help individuals with disabilities through the door. Together we can all work to make the Virgin Islands a better place for all Virgin Islanders.

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